



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

---

FOR THE YEAR 1938

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Whitstable Urban District Council.

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
**1938**

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
WHITSTABLE.

31st May, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the*

*WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have to present to you my ninth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Whitstable.

Area of Urban District	...	...	...	...	8,283 acres
„ „ „ „ (before 1934)	...	...	...	...	794 „
Population at Census 1931	...	...	...	...	10,820
„ (estimated mid-1937)	...	...	...	...	15,540
„ (estimated mid-1938)	...	...	...	...	15,590
Number of persons per acre (old area)	...	...	...	...	14.56
„ „ „ „ „ (new area)	...	...	...	...	1.87
„ „ Houses 1931	...	...	...	...	3,466
„ „ Inhabited houses 1931	...	...	...	...	3,105
„ „ Houses 1938	...	...	...	...	5,901
„ „ Inhabited houses 1938	...	...	...	...	5,498
„ „ Families or Separate Occupiers (1931)	...	...	...	...	3,327
Rateable Value 1937	...	...	...	...	£138,441
„ „ 1938	...	...	...	...	£139,795
Sum represented by a penny rate 1937	...	...	...	...	£525
„ „ „ „ 1938	...	...	...	...	£528

AREA.—The area of the Urban District as constituted on 1st April, 1934, is 8,283 acres, made up as follows:—

Old Urban Area	{	Central Ward	...	...	78	acres
		East Ward	...	...	422	„
		West Ward	...	...	294	„
Added Area	{	Swalecliffe	...	...	927	„
		Whitstable-cum-Seasalter			4,350	„
		Dunkirk (part)	...	...	936	„
		Graveney (part)	...	...	886	„
		Hernhill (part)	...	...	390	„
TOTAL					...	8,283

POPULATION. The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for mid-1938 is 15,590. The estimate for mid-1937 was 15,540. In view of the almost complete cessation of development and the increase of deaths over births, it is likely that the Registrar-General's figure is now an over-estimate. The Survey

of Housing Accommodation for Evacuation purposes revealed in February of this year the number of occupied rooms (1 person per habitable room) as 15,042.

**PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF AREA.**—Whitstable is situated on the North Kent Coast in a bay of the same name. Parts of the old town are low-lying and protected by sea walls, the mean level of which is 16 feet above ordnance datum. The lowest level of the district is 9.5 O.D. and the highest 222 O.D.

There is rising ground to the east and the southern part of the district consists of well-wooded hills rising gradually from the sea and old town. To the West is a large area of marshland and in various parts farm land, mostly given over to pasture. The whole area drains towards the sea, through the Swalecliffe brook, Stream Dyke and the Red and White sluices at Seasalter. The subsoil is London clay. The climate is dry and bracing, the prevailing wind being south-westerly. During the first three months of the year the winds are often cold and keen, but for the remainder of the year it is very sunny and warm.

Winter unemployment has been more severe than usual owing to building development ceasing; an increasing number of men travel to employment in the Medway towns, where re-armament is creating work.

**PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.**—These are as follows :—

	Acreage
Tankerton Sea Front and Slopes ... ..	25.1
Tankerton Circus Tennis Courts ... ..	1
Tankerton Castle ... ..	4
Westgate Terrace ... ..	0.66
West Cliff Slopes ... ..	2.5
West Beach Tennis Courts ... ..	1
Westmeads Recreation Ground ... ..	5
War Memorial ... ..	0.1
Belmont Sports Ground ... ..	6.8
Fox's Cross ... ..	4
Prospect House Field ... ..	6.52
	— 56.69
Parks, Walks and Open Grounds, etc. ...	42.89 ac.
Playing Fields ... ..	13.8
	— 56.69 ac.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Totals.	Males.	Females.	Total for 1937.
Live Births	170	84	86	(165)
Legitimate	162	79	83	
Illegitimate	8	5	3	
Still Births	6	6	—	(5)
Legitimate	6	6	—	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	

The Birth Rate per 1,000 population is :—

				Rate for 1937.
Live Births	...	...	10.9	10.6
Still Births	...	...	0.38	0.32

DEATHS.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total for 1937.
	212	107	105	... 195

The death rate per 1,000 population is :—

			Rate for 1937.
Crude death rate	...	13.5	12.5
Adjusted death rate	...	9.7	9.0

The transferred deaths were :—

Inward ...	38	Outward ...	14
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The age distribution of total deaths was :—

Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—45 years	45—65 years	65 and upwards
5	2	0	4	4	17	46	134

Of the deaths over 65, 15 were between the ages of 65 and 70, 60 between 70 and 80, 55 between 80 and 90, and 4 over 90.



## CAUSES OF DEATH for 1938 and the four previous years are :—

	1938		1937		1936		1935		1934	
	Males	Females	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Measles ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Influenza ... ..	2	2	1	7	—	—	—	—	1	1
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ... ..	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	3	3	3
Other tuberculosis ... ..	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	1
Syphilis ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
General paralysis of the insane tabes dorsalis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	21	14	17	13	9	23	17	17	21	14
Diabetes ... ..	1	3	—	3	3	1	2	1	1	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ... ..	2	6	8	5	2	6	1	9	3	5
Heart disease ... ..	35	36	18	29	19	26	26	32	27	27
Aneurysm ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	7	11	6	8	14	12	5	9	3	9



Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	I	3	—	—	I	2	—	2	I
Pneumonia (all forms)...	...	...	5	5	2	2	3	2	7	3	3	3	5
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	—	—	I	I	—	I	I	3	—	2	2
Peptic ulcer	...	...	3	—	2	I	I	4	—	2	—	2	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	I	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	I	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Other digestive diseases	...	...	2	4	2	I	I	4	2	4	3	2	5
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	—	2	4	4	4	5	3	3	9	6	6
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, etc...	...	...	I	I	4	3	I	I	I	I	—	4	I
Senility	...	...	5	5	I	5	4	4	3	I	—	I	3
Suicide	...	...	I	I	2	—	—	—	I	2	I	4	I
Other violence	...	...	2	I	8	2	2	2	I	4	—	4	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	10	5	11	8	15	10	10	10	3	7	8
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	I	I	—	—	2	—	—	—	I	—	—
ALL CAUSES	...	...	107	105	96	99	94	103	90	96	100	96	96

Table showing Deaths for each month in each Ward of the  
Urban District.

Month			East	Central	West	Seasalter East	Seasalter West	Swalecliffe	Total
January	...	...	6	7	4	2	2	—	21
February	...	...	7	3	3	1	—	—	14
March	...	...	6	4	7	—	1	—	18
April	...	...	4	3	5	—	—	2	14
May	...	...	8	3	—	1	—	1	13
June	...	...	1	4	1	1	—	2	9
July	...	...	4	1	2	—	1	1	9
August	...	...	6	1	3	2	—	—	12
September	...	...	5	2	8	—	1	—	16
October	...	...	6	2	2	1	—	1	12
November	...	...	6	5	3	—	2	1	17
December	...	...	6	3	5	2	2	1	19
			65	38	43	10	9	9	174
Add Transfers	...	...	9	14	6	4	2	3	38
			74	52	49	14	11	12	212

The next Table shows Deaths from certain groups of diseases during the ten years 1929-38.

Year	Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	Cancer	Heart and Circulatory	All Causes
1929	2	9	11	9	21	52	136
1930	1	9	4	3	18	51	155
1931	2	4	10	8	20	68	152
1932	3	6	7	4	19	56	138
1933	3	9	5	14	21	61	176
1934	4	8	15	2	35	74	196*
1935	2	7	11	—	34	82	186
1936	1	8	12	—	32	71	197
1937	—	10	9	8	30	75	195
1938	1	10	11	4	35	97	212

\*Extension of Urban boundaries this year.

Deaths from all causes show a not inconsiderable increase on last year's figures. The increase is accounted for mostly by deaths from heart and circulatory diseases, no less than 45% of the deaths being attributable to this cause.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no deaths from Puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Deaths of infants under one year were as follows:—

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Totals for 1937.
Legitimate ...	5	2	3	8
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	1

Infantile mortality rates are as follows:—

		(Rates for 1937)
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	29.4	54.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	29.4	51.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	0.00	111



**Table of Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.**

	WHITSTABLE	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Population					
<b>Births—</b>					
Live ... ..	10.9	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4
Still ... ..	0.38	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
<b>Deaths—</b>					
All Causes ... ..	9.7	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles ... ..	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza ... ..	0.26	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
<b>Notifications—</b>					
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0.64	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria ... ..	0.38	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric Fever ... ..	0.19	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas ... ..	0.32	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia ... ..	1.34	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	29	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ... ..	11.7	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1
<b>Maternal Mortality—</b>					
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0.00	0.89	Not available	Not available	Not available
Others ... ..	0.00	2.19			
Total ... ..	0.00	3.08			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live & Still)					
<b>Maternal Mortality—</b>					
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0.00	0.86	Not available	Not available	Not available
Others ... ..	0.00	2.11			
Total ... ..	0.00	2.97			
<b>Notifications—</b>					
Puerperal Fever ... ..	0.00	14.42	18.08	12.51	3.53
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	5.8				15.49

The age and causes of death were as follows :—

1 day	...	...	Marasmus.
2 days	...	...	Premature Birth.
12 days	...	...	Pneumonia.
1 week	...	...	Acute gastro-enteritis.
3 weeks	...	...	Pneumonia.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### ❖ PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The staff engaged on public health work remains the same : myself, Medical Officer of Health, part-time ; Mr. C. R. A. Martin, Chief Sanitary Inspector ; his assistant, Mr. C. G. A. Rudd ; and Clerk, Mr. P. Light. Disinfector and outside general assistant, Mr. P. K. Marsh.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangements remain as described in previous Reports.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

All cases of infectious disease are removed to the Joint Hospital in the second ambulance of the local Ambulance Committee. As it may require to be used for other non-infectious cases, the ambulance is disinfected after each case.

There are two Ambulances in general use.

### HOME NURSING.

General nursing is provided by the District Nursing Association, also by three private nurses. There are many periods during the year when the nursing services are inadequate.

### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diptheria and Enteric Fever are sent to the Isolation Hospital at West End, Herne Bay, at present managed by a Joint Committee of representatives from Herne Bay and Whitstable. It receives cases from both towns. It accommodation is available, arrangements are made to receive cases of Puerpural Fever, Cerebro-spinal Fever, severe cases of Erysipelas and Measles.

During the year, there have been negotiations with the County Council regarding the closure of the West End Hospital, all cases being sent to Canterbury Isolation Hospital. The proposal was so vague and had such obvious disadvantages that the Joint Committee was unanimously against it.



Negotiations for the isolation of any cases of Smallpox occurring in the area at the Dover Corporation's hospital are making little or no progress.

Maternity and Child Welfare, and Tuberculosis Clinics are controlled by the County Council.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER SUPPLY.** The new mains and reservoir were completed early in the year, but owing to difficulties with the Contractor, arbitration proceedings were instituted and the scheme with the exception of small portions was not brought into the general distributive system. It is hoped to get houses in the Radfall area connected to the Council's mains during 1939. Periodical sampling of water supplies in this district show results not entirely satisfactory.

Samples of both sources of public supply, viz., Canterbury water and the Mid-Kent supply of Yorkletts, are periodically taken for chemical and bacteriological examination. The chemical analyses are satisfactory. Both supplies have a fairly high degree of temporary hardness, the Mid-Kent being the highest, but are very suitable for drinking purposes.

The following is a summary of eleven recent bacteriological examinations of public supplies:—

Samples with Organisms per c.c. at 22°C. ...	11
„ „ „ „ 37°C. ...	8
„ without B. coli (presumptive (in 100c.cs)	9
Sample with „ (in 50c.cs)	2*

\* Further tests showed these were not typical B. coli and there was no evidence of faecal contamination.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.** A new sewer was laid in Maydowns Road under the Private Streets Works Act and most of the premises in the road connected to it.

Flooding of sewers in wet weather continues in several parts of the town. The problem also extends to the sewerage system of Swalecliffe and Chestfield. Sewers laid in recent years are now insufficient owing to access of a large volume of storm water and flooding results, not so serious at the moment as in the town, but a problem that should engage the attention of the Council. There has been no progress with the Scheme submitted by the Council's Consulting Engineer, mentioned in my Report for last year and it is difficult to see how the Council could proceed with any such costly undertaking. In my opinion and in the opinion of others competent to judge whom I have consulted, the Council should review the situation entirely anew and endeavour to remedy what originally brought the subject before them, i.e., flooding.



The nuisance caused by the continuous emptying of cesspool contents into the sewers has been remedied by carrying out the suggestion of the Sanitary Inspector to discharge the sewage on to specially selected sites; land removed from habitations and water courses. Since this method of disposal has been adopted, there have been no complaints.

Particulars of privy conversions, new cesspools, cesspools abolished and the number of closets of each type in the district are set out in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

A classified summary of inspections made during the year is as follows:—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections ...	6768
Inspection of dwelling-houses ... ..	815
„ „ slaughter-houses ... ..	1258
„ „ shops ... ..	353
„ „ workshops ... ..	53
„ „ bakehouses ... ..	30
„ „ dairies and cowsheds ... ..	92
„ „ van dwellings, etc. ... ..	1603
Visits to infected houses ... ..	156
„ „ works in progress ... ..	425
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	2798
Total number of notices served ... ..	485

#### INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Inspections.	Notices served.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	30	8
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	23	2
	—	—
Total ...	53	10
	—	—

#### DEFECTS IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	5	5
Inadequate Ventilation ... ..	2	2
Sanitary Conveniences {	Insufficient ...	2
	Defective ...	2
Other Offences ... ..	2	2
	—	—
	13	13
	—	—

**FOOD INSPECTION.** Full details of this will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Every effort is made to check shore pollution in view of the extensive oyster beds in Whitstable Bay. With the inauguration of a cleansing system for privies at Seasalter, one might say that the risk is now materially reduced, thanks to the determined efforts of Mr. Martin. The system apparently worked satisfactorily last summer. The provision of permanent and up-to-date sanitary accommodation to camps has also reduced the pollution of the dykes at Seasalter which empty into the sea.

Most of the produce of the oyster layings are sent to the London markets. A fair trade is done in cockles and whelks, a proportion of which is with London, the remainder being local. There was no need for any action to be taken during the year under the Shellfish Regulations, 1934.

All milk producers' and distributor's premises are subjected to frequent inspection and samples taken for bacteriological examination. Laboratory arrangements are as described in previous Reports.

## **HOUSING.**

Slow progress has been made during the year towards completion of the five-year slum clearance programme. Four Clearance Orders were made in respect of Areas declared in 1937 and three of these were subsequently confirmed by the Minister without modification or good maintenance allowances. The remaining Order, consisting of an Area of two houses only, could not be admitted as one house used as a store was not considered to be a dwelling. Seven individual houses were considered under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, but only one Demolition Order was made and this in respect of a temporary building. In three cases undertakings to make fit and also three undertakings to refrain from using for human habitation were accepted. Buildings comprised in Orders made in previous years still remain, notwithstanding repeated requests from the Minister for their demolition.

Opposition to the administration of the Housing Act has become something in the nature of a campaign in the last year or two. It has made the task of your Officers exceedingly difficult and one cannot blame us for believing that unless there is a marked change of attitude, a genuine desire to administer the law as Parliament made it in the interests of the working classes, then slum clearance and rehousing might as well be considered dead!

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

				1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	10	23	16	27	29
Diphtheria	...	...	...	6	17	—	4	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	3	—	—	3	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	5	2	3	3	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	21	22	23	9	21
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...			17	8	13	14	19
„ (other forms)	...			6	8	12	13	9
Encephalitis Lethargica	...			—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...		—	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...		1	—	—	—	1
Puerpural Fever	...	...		—	—	1	1	—
„ Pyrexia	...	...		1	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...			—	—	—	1	—
Measles	...	...	...	142	1	212		
Whooping Cough	...	...		3	51	28	Not notifiable	

Notification of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were the lowest for a number of years. Of the former, two cases were contracted out of the district and one was a “ return ” case, and three cases of diphtheria were also from outside sources. Two cases of enteric fever were from outside the district, and the remaining one, a contact. An epidemic of measles, not so serious as the last bi-annual outbreak, occurred from March until June. A few secondary cases of pneumonia followed and one death. There were no other deaths from infectious disease.

The incidence rates of infectious disease per 1,000 of the population of the urban district compared with England and Wales are as follows :—

		Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph-theria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysi-pelas.	Pneu-monia.
England and Wales	...	0.00	2.41	1.58	0.03	0.40	1.10
Whitstable	...	0.00	0.64	0.38	0.19	0.32	1.34



Age Incidence, Distribution, etc. of Infectious Diseases notified during 1938.

DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65 and upwards	Cases notified in each Ward						Cases Removed to Hospital
									East Ward	Central Ward	West Ward	Seasalter East	Seasalter West	Swalecliffe	
Scarlet Fever...	...	10	1	8	—	1	—	—	4	—	2	1	—	3	10
Diphtheria ...	...	6	1	4	—	—	1	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	6
Enteric Fever ...	...	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Puerpural Pyrexia ...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	...	5	—	—	—	1	3	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	17	—	—	3	6	6	2	7	3	3	—	2	2	—
” (other forms)	6	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	...	21	3	3	2	3	4	4	13	2	3	1	1	1	—
Measles ...	...	142	21	117	4	—	—	—	60	15	16	17	2	12	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at commencement of 1938 ...	24	39	20	15	98
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1938 ...	9	8	1	5	23
Number of cases restored to the Register	—	1	—	—	1
Other additions ...	2	—	—	—	2
Number of cases removed from the Register during 1938 ...	8	8	7	4	27
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of 1938 ...	27	40	14	16	97

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases and Mortality, 1938.

				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	...	...		—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-15 years	...	...		—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
15-25 years	...			1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
25-35 years	...			2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-45 years	...			2	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
45-55 years	...			—	2	—	—	2	—	1	—
55-65 years	...			3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years & upwards				1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	9	8	1	5	5	4	1	—

One death from pulmonary tuberculosis had not been previously notified, otherwise there was nothing to complain of in the notification of tuberculosis during the year.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

Of the 97 cases remaining on the Register, one was notified in 1924 and is still active, but otherwise there are no earlier notifications than 1930. There are 24 children of school age or under suffering from tubercular glands, the bulk of them from poor homes, where good food and healthy living conditions are deficient.

### CONCLUSION.

From the short-term approvals given to my part-time appointment as Medical Officer of Health, it would seem that my tenure of office is drawing to a close; this may be my last Report. I have served the Council for nine years and trust that my efforts have not been without value to the town. Having spent more than half a century in Whitstable and knowing intimately its poor, their family life, their difficulties and fail-



ings, I have brought to my post things that it takes a lifetime to learn. But I shall take away something too; a profound admiration for the manner in which the Sanitary Inspector carries out his duties, often in the face of great difficulties; his competency and determination to leave the town better than he found it. I shall also remember the help received from the Council and treasure always the confidence they have reposed in me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. ETHERIDGE, M.B.,  
Medical Officer of Health.





Whitstable Urban District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

1938

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THE CASTLE,  
WHITSTABLE.

21st April, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

COUNCILLOR MRS. WATTS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Fifteenth Annual Report of the work carried out by my department during the year 1938.

1. General.

Number of Inspections	...	...	5523				
„ „ Reinspections	...	...	1245	Total	...	6768	
„ „ Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	348	
„ „ Notices served to execute works :—							
	Preliminary		395				
	Statutory		28	Total	...	423	
„ „ Notices complied with by persons responsible (including those outstanding at end of 1937)	...	...	...	...	...	286	
„ „ Notices complied with by Council in default						4	
„ „ Notices served under Housing Act, 1936 :							
	Requisition Notices (Section 168)				14		
	Clearance Orders	...	...	...	30		
	Compulsory Purchase Orders	...	...	...	—		
	Principal Grounds (Section 41)	...	...	...	9		
	Demolition Orders	...	...	...	7		
	Displacement Certificates	...	...	...	2		
	To vacate premises	...	...	...	Nil		
				Total	—	62	

2. Housing Nuisances.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Eaves gutters and rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	36
Floor space covered with site concrete	...	...	...	...	...	9
Doors and windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Dirty rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	26
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	13
New dampcourses provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Stoves renewed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Yards paved and drained	...	...	...	...	...	12
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rooms lighted	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	4
Outbuildings rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	32

### 3. Drains, W.C's, Ashpits, Etc.

Drains relaid and repaired	...	...	...	...	89
,, ventilated	...	...	...	...	50
,, cleared	...	...	...	...	22
,, tested	...	...	...	...	295
Surface water drains laid	...	...	...	...	1
Rain water pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	1
Houses connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	31
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	8
,, constructed	...	...	...	...	2
,, repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Pail closets converted to W.C.s	...	...	...	...	24
Movable sink waste receptacles abolished	...	...	...	...	21
W.C.s built	...	...	...	...	58
,, repaired	...	...	...	...	10
,, provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	...	63
Urinals built	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	82
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	21
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	47

### 4. Bakehouses.

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	14
,, of Inspections	...	...	...	...	30
,, ,, Defects found	...	...	...	...	5
,, ,, ,, remedied	...	...	...	...	5

### 5. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of Cowkeepers on Register	...	...	...	21
,, ,, Retail Purveyors on Register	...	...	...	14
,, ,, Registered Retailers with Milkshops	...	...	...	6
,, ,, Registered Retailers with premises outside urban district	...	...	...	3
,, ,, General Shops permitted to Sell in Sealed Bottles or Cartons	...	...	...	38
,, ,, Inspections	...	...	...	92
,, ,, Defects found	...	...	...	4
,, ,, ,, remedied	...	...	...	4

### 6. Slaughterhouses.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	...	...	2
,, ,, Licensed	...	...	5
,, ,, Inspections	...	...	1258
,, ,, Defects found	...	...	3
,, ,, ,, remedied	...	...	3

## 7. Factories and Workshops.

Number of Workshops	...	...	...	...	74
„ „ Workplaces	...	...	...	...	42
„ „ Inspections	...	...	...	...	53
„ „ Defects found	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ „ remedied	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ Workshops cleansed	...	...	...	...	4

## 8. Water Supplies.

Number of samples taken for analysis—Chemical	17	
Bacteriological	15—	32
„ „ „ reported unfit	...	3
„ „ wells cleansed	...	1
„ „ „ closed	...	2
„ „ houses connected to mains during year as the result of action taken	...	9

## 9. Various.

Inspection of Butchers', Grocers', Fish, Fruit, Ice Cream, etc., Shops	...	...	...	342
„ under Shops' Acts	...	...	...	11
„ of Van Dwellings, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	1603
„ „ Schools	...	...	...	20
„ „ Stables	...	...	...	50
„ „ Offensive Trades	...	...	...	2
Visits to works in progress	...	...	...	425
Watercourses cleansed, etc.	...	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	31
Animals kept insanitary	...	...	...	4
Premises baited with rat poison	...	...	...	10
Houses cleansed and disinfected after flooding	...	...	...	118

The number of housing defects remedied is less than last year, as is the number of notices complied with, because I carried out the routine house-to-house inspections later in the year than usual.

The number of complaints received each year continues to be high, many of them unjustified. They vary from the loss of an egg-pail lid during refuse collection to the inordinate activities of masculine filines in Spring.

During the flood of February, 1938, when high tides came over the sea walls and inundated houses along Sea Wall and Island Wall, as a preventive measure, I had the floors of 118 houses taken up and the space beneath disinfected. Samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from different parts of the flooded area, but all were reported free of contamination.

I also distributed the relief allocated from the Fund raised for the purpose to householders who had suffered losses due to the flooding.

An attempt to overcome the nuisance caused by the emission of fine mineral dust from the Tarmac Plant on Whitstable Harbour has been made by the addition of a bag filter apparatus to the cyclonic extractor, which I am hoping has considerably reduced the trouble.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Number of visits to Infected Houses ...	...	...	...	156
„ „ Rooms disinfected following Scarlet Fever			19	
„ „ „ „ „ „ Diphtheria			6	
„ „ „ „ „ „ Measles			2	
„ „ „ „ „ „ Tuberculosis			7	
„ „ „ „ „ „ Cancer			21	
„ „ „ „ „ „ Typhoid Fever			3	
„ „ „ „ „ „ Erysipelas			1	
„ „ „ „ „ „ Puerperal „			2	
„ „ „ „ „ „ Miscellaneous			18	
				<u>79</u>

Ten cases of Scarlet Fever, 6 Diphtheria, 3 Enteric Fever and 1 Puerperal Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital, a total of 20.

A curious feature of infectious disease removals is that they all seem to occur at the week-end. Last year no less than 11 were removed on a Sunday, and it has been so for many years.

Number of articles disinfected in Steam Disinfector :—

Mattresses	...	...	...	76
Pillows	...	...	...	188
Sheets	...	...	...	80
Blankets	...	...	...	142
Quilts	...	...	...	19
Beds	...	...	...	16
Bedspreads	...	...	...	16
Bolsters	...	...	...	27
Cushions	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	248
Total ...				820

Disinfection for the Cottage Hospital and Nursing Homes is carried out free of charge.



### PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The public mortuary situated at the Island Wall Depot is under my control and assistance is provided for medical practitioners conducting post mortem examinations.

	Males	Females
Number of Bodies admitted—Resident ...	9	4
Non-resident...	2	—
	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 4
No. admitted for Post-mortem exam.	8	
No. admitted for Inquest ...	10	
CAUSES OF DEATH :—		
Natural Causes ...	6	
Misadventure ...	7	
Suicide ...	2	
	<hr/>	
Total ...	15	
	<hr/>	

### FOOD SUPPLY.

The following tables show the amount of unsound food condemned during the year and the diseases in carcasses and organs :—

Table I.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef (English) ...		1	1	20
Beef (Foreign) ...		1		5
Mutton ...		1		1
Pork ...		9	1	16
Edible Organs ...	1	1	1	17
Fish ...			1	16
Miscellaneous ...			2	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1	15	0	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Table II.**  
**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
(i) Number killed	266	—	367	2595	2394
(ii) Number inspected	265	—	354	2461	2386
(iii) Number inspected in shops (killed outside district)	8	13	22	50	129
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
(iv) Whole carcasses condemn'd	—	—	—	2	3
(v) Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	27	—	—	13	38
*(vi) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis.	10.1	—	—	0.5	1.5
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
(vii) Whole carcasses condemn'd	—	—	—	—	1
(viii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	38	—	1	—	98
*(ix) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	14.3	—	0.2	—	4.1

\*Refers to numbers in column (ii) only.

Six whole carcasses were condemned; 1 pig for generalized tuberculosis; two for swine erysipelas and one for acute inflammatory condition; one sheep for asphyxiation and one for emaciation.

The percentages of animals affected with tuberculosis in any degree were as follows :—

38 beasts,	a percentage of	14.3
1 calf	„	0.2
98 pigs	„	4.1

Table II shows the number of animals examined during the year, including those killed in the urban district and those brought to shops from slaughterhouses outside the town. A proportion of the total of animals killed are for sale in Herne Bay.

Table III.

## ORGANS.

DISEASES	Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Diaphragms	Livers	Spleen	Cauls	Mesenteries	Stomachs	Kidneys	Udders	WEIGHTS			
													Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	Lbs.
Tuberculosis	72	70	33	9	12	12	7	5	78	74	4	—	—	15	—	—
Swine Erysipelas	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	—	—	—	2	4
Actinomycosis	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Pleurisy	—	—	13	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	28
Pericarditis	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	2	12
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	19
Necrosis	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Pus formation	—	—	3	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	13
Pentastomi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Distomatosis	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	12
Strongylosis	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Asphyxiation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	21
Emaciation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	16
Total	77	75	53	28	18	80	12	10	86	82	12	—	1	1	1	17



Table IV.  
Monthly Inspection of Animals, Slaughterhouses and Shops.

		Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Slaughterhouses	Shops
January	...	21	28	164	238	111	21
February	...	19	18	105	206	91	19
March	...	15	22	129	247	109	35
April	...	20	31	177	221	98	15
May	...	27	29	267	204	121	30
June	...	20	60	246	136	108	29
July	...	14	30	253	138	105	31
August	...	26	39	321	171	101	30
September	...	35	53	440	294	124	34
October	...	20	13	108	179	98	26
November	...	21	25	148	197	92	33
December	...	35	28	153	284	100	39
		273	376	2511	2515	1258	342

The totals of the number of animals inspected last year and for the five preceding years were :—

1938	...	...	5,675
1937	...	...	6,000
1936	...	...	6,848
1935	...	...	6,730
1934	...	...	6,616
1933	...	...	5,983

Most of the work of meat inspection during the summer—one might almost say all of it—is carried out during the evenings.

The number of certificates issued to butchers for insurance purposes was 122.

**SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERING.** There are five annually licensed and two registered slaughterhouses. During the year one slaughterhouse was tiled throughout in white glazed tiles, also white-tiled benches for offals provided. All premises are in close proximity to dwelling-houses and four will need careful consideration when the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, come into force.

There are 17 slaughtermen licensed for one year under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Mechanically operated instruments are used for slaughtering all animals. Notices of slaughter continue to be given promptly and regularly.

**MILK SUPPLY.** The number of registered cowkeepers in the area is now reduced to 21, two having discontinued business during the year. The number of retail purveyors is also reduced by three having been removed from the register to 14.

There are two Tuberculin Tested producers in the area and ten Accredited producers, one of whom has a bottling licence from the County Council. Milk is received from one Tuberculin Tested and two Accredited producers with premises outside the urban area. The Council have issued licences for the sale of graded milk as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	3	(2 Bottling Licences)
Accredited	...	1	(1 „ „ „ )
Pasteurised (Dealer)	...	1	

Thirty-seven samples of milk from Accredited producers' premises were submitted to the County Laboratory and 9 from Tuberculin Tested producers; 2 of the accredited samples failed to satisfy the prescribed tests. Four samples (three accredited and one Tuberculin-tested) on sale by retail were taken; two accredited failed to comply with the standard. A further 8 samples of ungraded milk were submitted to the South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, one of which was below Accredited standard.

## HOUSING.

Table V.

Number of Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	113	
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	
1. <i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—</i>								
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	689	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	697	
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	176	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	176	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	119	
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—</i>								
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers								58
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—</i>								
A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—								
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—								
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	



## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	15
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	15
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	—

## C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	2

## D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding :—*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	8
(ii) Number of families dwelling there ... ..	10
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	50
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	Nil
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	5

In addition to those houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, two others were demolished in anticipation of formal procedure. Three undertakings were accepted to refrain from using for human habitation, making a total of 16 such undertakings in force. One undertaking to make fit was accepted.

CLEARANCE AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS. Of the seven Clearance Areas declared in 1937, Clearance Orders were made in respect of Nos. 15, 16, 18 and 19. An Inquiry was held in July, 1938, and all Orders confirmed without modification except the Middle Wall (No. 18) Clearance Order, which

was not confirmed. Clearance Area 17 was dealt with by the acceptance of an undertaking to convert two houses into one and make fit, and by means of a Demolition Order in respect of the remaining building in the Area. I am endeavouring to obtain the clearance of buildings from Area No. 21 by negotiation, whilst No. 20 remains undealt with.

Buildings comprised in previous Orders demolished during the year were 13 by the Council and 3 by owners. The demolition of Prospect Cottages yielded a surplus of £28 from sales of materials, which was returned to the owners. Seasalter (No. 13) Clearance Order, 1936, continues to give trouble and Island Wall (No. 9) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1936, also.

The following table shows action, formal and informal, taken with respect to dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation :—

**Table VI.**

	No. of Houses demolished	Part of buildings closed	Total Number of persons displaced
Formal action ... up to 31/12/30	12	—	43
Formal action .. since above date, per quarterly returns to Ministry of Health.	105	4	325
Informal action ...	37	13	80
Totals ..	154	17	448

REHOUSING. Grimshill Housing Scheme provided rehousing accommodation for persons displaced from Clearance Areas Nos. 7-15. I have no hesitation in saying that the Old People's scheme in Swanfield Close is the best housing effort the Council has ever made, and I feel proud of having been the means of its inception.

I endeavour to keep in touch with all families removed from slum conditions and if they need help, as they frequently do, to put their cases before the various voluntary charities. For a number of years, too, I have disinfected and stored mattresses, bedding, etc. usually discarded by more well-to-do people following a death in the house, and distributed them to needy families.



ERADICATION OF VERMIN. Four Council houses and 4 others were disinfected for the eradication of vermin by my staff. Two notices under section 83, Public Health Act, 1936, were served on occupants to carry out the necessary work and in four cases verminous bedding and furniture removed and destroyed by me on Certificates under section 84, Public Health Act, 1936. In one case a warrant to enter premises had to be obtained. One verminous person was removed to an Institution for cleansing on the issue of a Certificate by me.

All of the above cases were elderly spinsters or widows living alone.

The materials used for disinfection were Cimex and Cescone fumigants and Zaldecide insecticide. I use both fumigant and insecticide and leave the premises sealed for 48 hours at least.

OVERCROWDING. Twenty-three certificates of "permitted numbers" were issued to owners of property during the year.

TEMPORARY BUILDINGS. The position with regard to wooden huts and stationery vehicles used for seasonal occupation as dwellings is as follows:—

	Huts	Vehicles
At end of 1937 ...	195	23
Added in 1938 ...		2
Removed ... ..	2	2
At end of 1938 ...	193	23

The Inquiry into the Seasalter (No. 3) Clearance Order, 1935 (this comprised 120 huts along the beach at Seasalter), was characterized by the heat of the opposition. Almost everything which I gave in evidence was labelled untrue and when I stated that I had seen the sea wash up to and around the buildings, twenty witnesses swore it only gently lapped the shore and never touched the huts. In the gale of February, 1938, these gentle waves rose in all their fury and smashed the place up. The Minister did not confirm the Order, but in viewing the devastation after the gale, I came to the conclusion that "Davy Jones" had! Excess of sentiment in administration, however, can be counted upon to provide paradoxes and this must have been the reason why the Council, after seeking to remove the buildings in 1936, permitted them to be reinstated in 1938. Accordingly, bits and pieces were collected, scattered commodes and other utensils retrieved, and the position became "status quo." Only one hut failed to rear its head above the sea wall; the North Sea had completely swallowed it.

## DRAINAGE.

There are two cesspools in the old urban district, all other property being connected to the sewers. 863 houses in the added area are also connected to the sewers; 135 to the South Tankerton sewer, 180 to the North Tankerton sewer, 163 to the Chestfield sewer, 253 to the Swalecliffe sewer and the remainder into extensions of the urban sewerage system.

For the remainder of the added area, the following table shows the means of drainage provided :—

Table VII.

AREA	Cesspools taking		Sink waste receptacles	Premises without sink drainage	Pail closets	Privy middens
	W.C.'s and waste water	Waste water only				
Swalecliffe ... ..	7	1	3	—	46*	—
Chestfield ... ..	43	—	16	6	20	—
Radfall ... ..	13	1	47	3	48	2
South Street ... ..	16	—	1	4	6	—
Millstrood ... ..	39	—	14	5	15	—
Canterbury Road ... (including Willow Wood and Wraike Hill)	78	9	36	9	57	2
Seasalter : —						
(a) Joy Lane to Jolly Sailor ... ..	32	—	2	—	2	—
(b) Granville Estate and Seasalter Cliff	81	1	24	4	40	—
(c) Jolly Sailor and U.D. Boundary ...	47	5	88	1	200†	—
Yorkletts ... ..	49	32	1	3	36	—
Total ... ..	405	49	232	35	470	4

\*Includes 38 pail closets in huts at Seaview camp. †Includes 105 pail closets in huts at Seasalter

PRIVY CLEANSING, SEASALTER. A proper system of regularly cleansing the pail-closets at Seasalter was put into operation early last summer. An Association of bungalow owners in the Faversham Road provided a vehicle and land for disposal and the work has been carried out by contractors at the cost of the owners. The Hut-owners' Association (i.e., representing the huts on the beach between Old Coastguards and Sportsman Inn) purchased land and constructed a cesspool into which pail-closet



contents are emptied from the light conveyance which is used for collecting purposes on top of the sea wall. Both systems have worked with little cause for complaint.

It is gratifying that at long last one has been able to obtain more satisfactory sanitary conditions in this part of Seasalter. With conditions as they were, something must assuredly have happened that would have had a bad effect on the district as a whole. The risks of shore pollution have now been reduced to a minimum, and that the work is being carried out by the owners themselves, at no cost to the Council, is a further source of gratification.

SEWER, MAYDOWNS ROAD. A new sewer was laid along Maydowns Road to connect with the Chestfield Sewer. The work was done under the Private Streets Work Act, and chiefly because of the complete inaccessibility of the road during winter for cesspool emptying purposes. Fifteen houses were connected to it during the year, new house drainage being necessary in most cases.

## HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Financial data for house refuse collection and disposal are for the year ended 31st March, 1939 :

REFUSE COLLECTION. There is a twice-weekly collection of house refuse, except in certain outlying parts of the district where it is collected once per week. A daily collection is made from the hotels during the summer, and also the Cottage Hospital. Trade refuse is collected twice weekly; street sweepings from the Highways Depot and refuse from huts at Whitstable, Tankerton and Seasalter. The service is carried on by four S.D. Freighters, two purchased in 1927, one in 1934 and one in 1937. The two old freighters are obviously getting towards the end of their period of usefulness. It is intended to keep them running until some expensive repairs are required and then scrap them. A sum has been allowed in this year's Estimates for obtaining a new freighter.

REFUSE DISPOSAL. The whole of the refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping at Yorkletts on land purchased in 1936 by a Compulsory Purchase Order. The work is being carried out in strict accordance with the Ministry's rules and, if I may say so, in an excellent manner. There have been no complaints nor could there be any possible cause for complaint. I receive soil in abundance for covering from land-slips on the Coastal Road, of which there continues to be a large number. They may be giving trouble to the County Authorities, but " it's an ill wind . . . "

Table VIII.

CLEANSING COSTS, 1938-39.

	Refuse Collection.		Refuse Disposal	TOTAL	
	Including Loan Charges	Excluding Loan Charges		Including Loan Charges	Excluding Loan Charges
(i) Gross Expenditure ...	£ s. d. 1922 9 7	£ s. d. 1781 6 3	£ s. d. 359 11 5	£ s. d. 2282 0 0	£ s. d. 2126 13 4
(ii) Gross Income ...	114 6 2	114 6 2	123 17 8	238 3 10	238 3 10
(iii) Net Cost ...	1808 3 5	1667 0 1	235 13 9	2043 16 2	1888 9 6
(iv) Gross Expenditure per ton ...	8 4.6	7 9.2	1 6.8	9 11.4	9 4
(v) Gross Income per ton	5.9	5.9	6.4	1 0.3	1 0.3
(vi) Net Cost per ton ...	7 10.7	7 4.7	1 0.4	8 11.1	8 3.7
(vii) Net Cost per 1000 of population ...	115 17 7	106 17 2	15 2 2	130 19 9	121 19 4
(viii) Net cost per 1000 houses	297 1 7	270 0 9	38 3 7	335 6 2	308 4 4

1. Total Refuse in tons	...	...	...	4586 tons
2. Population (estimated)	...	...	...	15600
3. Area ...	...	...	...	8283 acres
4. Weight per 1000 population per day, in cwts.	...	...	...	18.9
5. Number of houses and premises visited	...	...	...	6173
6. Average length of haul	...	...	...	3.25 miles
7. Petrol consumption	...	...	...	4063 galls.

The Austrian Pines which I had planted at the tip have not been too successful, but a resident of Chestfield has generously supplied me with 200 Plum and Thorn and undertaken to keep me supplied.

The total quantity of refuse collected and disposed of was 4,586 tons 10 cwts.

	Tons	Cwts.
House Refuse (5 cwts. per. c.yd.)	4,021	
Trade Refuse ... ..	312	
Street Sweepings ... ..	121	
Recreation Ground Refuse ...	132	10

### FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1939.

#### Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Trade Refuse and Salvage ... ..	208	3	10
Highways Dept. Collection of refuse from Slopes and Street Sweepings ... ..	30	0	0
	<u>£238</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>

#### Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Collection :						
Labour ... ..	1259	11	6			
Petrol and Lubricants ... ..	268	5	4			
Garage Rent ... ..	13	12	0			
Repairs ... ..	39	9	1			
Tyres ... ..	55	3	2			
Tax, Insurance, etc. ... ..	145	5	2			
Loan Repayment ... ..	141	3	4			
	<u>          </u>			1922	9	7
Disposal :						
Labour ... ..	333	14	2			
Water rates, etc. ... ..	3	14	0			
Miscellaneous Items ... ..	7	19	11			
Loan Repayment ... ..	14	3	4			
	<u>          </u>			359	11	5
				<u>2282</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Less Revenue ... ..				238	3	10
				<u>£2043</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>



At the commencement of the financial year I started a new and more detailed system of costing. There was an increase in revenue during the year, mostly accounted for by waste paper salvage. In view of the age of the vehicles, repairs were extremely low. This, with minor economies, has resulted in a saving of 6.8d. per ton of refuse collected, last year's cost being 9s. 5.9d. per ton compared with 8s. 11.1d. per ton for 1938-9.

### SUPERVISION OF CAMPS.

The total number of sites in the urban area which were used for camping purposes during 1938 was 23, of which 14 held licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area during the peak period of camping, viz., the first two weeks in August, was 2,827.

As the result of the licensing powers in the Public Health Act, 1936, there was a considerable and much needed improvement in sanitary conditions in the larger and more permanent camps. Licences granted for these required the provision of permanent w.c's., urinals, drainage, and ablution blocks. Appeals were lodged but these were all dismissed and the necessary work carried out before the camping season started. In one large camp, a brick-built block containing 6 w.c's. and urinals for males, 7 w.c's. for females, 12 wash-basins, all connected to the public sewer some 300 yards distant was erected; in another 4 w.c's. and urinal for males, 4 w.c's. for females and 6 wash-basins to a 3,000 gallon cesspool, and several other camps with similar provisions. Seven licensed camps now have w.c's. and drainage, the remainder, being smaller and used for lesser periods, have chemical closets. All have a public water supply. No cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.



## PORT SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

Table IX.

—		Number	Ton- nage	Number inspec- ted	Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
FOREIGN ...	{ Steamers...	5	1357	—	—	—	—
	{ *Motor ...	9	1594	2	—	—	—
	{ Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
	{ Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign ...		14	2951	2	—	—	—
FOREIGN ...	{ Steamers...	53	11571	8	2	—	—
	{ *Motor ...	47	7004	7	—	—	—
	{ Sailing ...	1	45	—	—	—	—
	{ Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise ...		101	18620	15	2	—	—
Total Foreign and Coast- wise ... ..		115	21571	17	2	—	—

Foreign ports from which vessels arrived during the year were chiefly Belgian and Dutch. Coastwise traffic was from Leith, Dundee, Channel Islands and Cornish ports. There is little to report as far as port sanitary administration is concerned; routine inspections are carried out for and rat infestations; the harbour conveniences give a little trouble from time to time. During last year, pressure of work prevented more ships being inspected than usual.

## VARIOUS.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS. For the first time for a number of years, I am pleased to report little Police Court activity. Two appeals against conditions of camping licences and one application for an ejectment order were all that occurred. Compared with 13 prosecutions in 1937, 14 in 1936, 18 in 1915, I trust it reveals an inclination to discontinue resistance to sanitary progress.

WATER SUPPLY. Numerous complaints of abnormal taste and smell were received during the year, due to the chlorination of the public water supply by the Canterbury Water Company. Chloramine was used.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN OFFICES. In a number of cases improvements were effected at office premises under the new provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, also supervision is exercised over hotel kitchens and sleeping quarters for hotel staffs.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS. What began as instruction of personnel in Air Raid Precautions has grown during the year by the addition of organisation and administrative work to almost a new department run entirely by voluntary effort. Clerical work is done in my department largely by ladies volunteering for A.R.P.

The September Crisis provided a titanic rush of work, as indeed it probably did all over the country. Respirator distribution, hastily improvised arrangements for Report Centres, etc., all with an insufficient personnel, made serious inroads into the work of my department. The rush continues into 1939, but as each phase of A.R.P. is completed, one can begin to see the end, after which it will be possible to return to a more normal existence when the work of Civil Defence can be, one hopes, an interesting and patriotic part-time service.

CONCLUSION. I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council for the confidence they have reposed in me. To my staff, for their loyal assistance, I am extremely grateful, and in concluding I remember the passing of the late Clerk to the Council, Mr. A. B. Baker.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. R. A. MARTIN,

M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., etc.,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*









